has also been issued by DGCA on 01.08.2005 for safe opertions of helicopter in the hilly area.

Sanction of a new modern airport for Chennai

2252. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a move for sanction of a new Modern International Airport for Chennai as has been done for Bangalore in the wake of heavy spurt and steep increase of traffic in Chennai due to the growth of information technology, the proposal of deverting all flights bound for South-East Asian countries through Chennai Airport and the need of patients from Asian countries for fairly cheap and qualitative treatment at Chennai; and

(b) whether the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has already raked up a proposal for a new airport at the cost of around Rs. 1000 crores in an extent of 2000 acres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) An 'in principle' decision has been taken to initiate the process of modernization of Chennai Airport.

New International airports

2253. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CIVILAVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of airports which were given the status of international airports during the last three years;

(b) whether Government propose to declare some more airports as international airports; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) During the last three years *i.e.* 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, the airports at Amritsar, Nagpur, Srinagar, Jaipur and Calicut have been declared as international airports.

(b) and (c) The essential parameters to consider declaring of an^airport as international *inter-alia* include international sector traffic potential, requirements of airlines, availability of international cargo complex, adequate size of terminal building, night landing facilities, landing facilities, navigational aids, customs, immigration, health and plant quarantine etc.